

AUGUST AS PSORIASIS
AWARENESS MONTH**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the National Psoriasis Foundation and of August as Psoriasis Awareness Month, I would like to bring attention to this often overlooked and serious disease that affects as many as 7.5 million Americans. Psoriasis is a chronic, inflammatory, painful, disfiguring and disabling disease for which there are limited treatments and no cure. Ten to 30 percent of people with psoriasis also develop psoriatic arthritis, which causes pain, stiffness and swelling in and around the joints. Psoriasis is widely misunderstood and undertreated. In addition to the pain, itching and bleeding caused by psoriasis, many affected individuals also experience social discrimination and stigma. Many people mistakenly believe psoriasis to be contagious. Psoriasis typically strikes between the ages of 15 and 25 and lasts a lifetime. As such, psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis impose significant burden on individuals and society; together they cost the nation 56 million hours of lost work and between \$2 billion and \$3 billion in treatments each year.

I am pleased that the 89,000 affected Oregonians have access to the knowledgeable support offered by the Oregon affiliate of the National Psoriasis Foundation. Support group interaction and discussion provides individuals affected by this debilitating disease with much-needed comfort, assistance and resources. The work of the support groups in Oregon is invaluable, and I commend the efforts of those involved.

I thank the National Psoriasis Foundation for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 38 years. This year, the National Psoriasis Foundation had nearly one hundred participants join in its Capitol Hill Day to elevate awareness and understanding of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis and have policymakers take action to address access to care and boost the nation's research efforts.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR PHILLIP
GARRETT**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major Phillip Garrett on his newest posting as Chief of Police of Mobile, Alabama.

Major Garrett was born on December 26, 1950, in Prentiss, Mississippi. His education and specialized training is extensive, including attending the 194th session of the FBI Academy and receiving a bachelor of science degree from Troy State University in Criminal Justice Administration. He has served on the Mobile Police Department for 33 years, starting his career as a patrol officer. Since 1999, Garrett has served as head of the department's Community Services Division.

Major Garrett has received many commendations and recognitions, including the

Chief's Commendation from Chief Sam Cochran, the Life Saving Award from the Mobile Police Department, and the Medal of Valor from the Mobile Police Department. He has also been recognized for his outstanding performances on Competitive Promotional Exams, and in 2004, he was recognized as the top scorer on the Competitive Promotional Exam for Major.

Garrett is considered an innovator amongst his colleagues and has worked to improve relationships between officers and the community. He served on the Envision Coastal America Steering Committee, the Underage Drinking Taskforce, and the Clean Start Pre-natal Substance Abuse Committee. He is also a member of the board of directors for Camp Rap-A-Hope, a children's oncology summer camp. Major Garrett is married to Tammy Smitherman and has three children: Phillip M. Garrett, Jr., Sergeant Matthew Ryan Garrett of the Mobile Police Department, and Kendall W. Smitherman.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Major Phillip Garrett and commend him for his hard work and this well-deserved appointment as Chief of Police of Mobile, Alabama. I know Major Garrett's family and friends join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Mobile.

REPRESSION IN INDIA EXPOSED

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the London Institute of South Asia recently published an edition of its Journal. It included many excellent articles on the plight of minorities in India. There were articles about the Sikhs, Dalits, Muslims, and others. A writer named Tim Phares wrote a very comprehensive article on the subject that I would like to share with my colleagues.

He took note of the plight of the Sikhs, the Dalits, the Muslims, the Christians, and other minorities in India. He noted that Christians have become "the targets of choice." He noted that the Indian constitution bans the caste system but it remains in place, a vehicle of oppression of minorities. He reported that India's constitution denies people their fundamental right of self-determination. That is the essence of democracy, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how a country can call itself democratic when it denies people such a fundamental democratic right.

The article takes note of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), formed in support of the fascist movement, publishing a booklet on how to frame Christians and other minorities in fake criminal cases. It comments on anti-conversion laws. It details some of the violence that has come about due to such laws. Shouldn't a person's religion be a fundamental freedom, Mr. Speaker?

The article notes the studies that have been done on the massacre in Chithisinghpura in which at least 35 Sikhs were murdered. It notes that they have come to the common conclusion that the Indian government's forces carried out this massacre. It notes the government's involvement in the Gujarat massacres.

The article does an excellent job of detailing incident after incident of repression against minorities in India.

Mr. Speaker, we must do what we can to support freedom throughout the world. It is time to stop our aid and trade with India until it stops being the repressive regime that it is and starts being the democracy that it says it is. We should declare our support for a free and fair plebiscite in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and everywhere people are seeking their freedom in South Asia.

[From the Journal of the London Institute of South Asia, July 2006]

REPRESSION IN INDIA

(By Tim Phares)

It is not safe to be a minority in India. As U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-Cal.) pointed out, if you're a Sikh, Muslim, Christian, or other minority, "India might as well be Nazi Germany." While democratic elections occur, they have little effects on minorities except to change the faces.

India has committed or allowed to be committed numerous actions against people (men, women and children) within its borders, actions that, if committed against Americans anywhere would be condemned by us as terrorism.

In India, the overwhelming issues are caste and religion. The caste system defines the rights that people enjoy based on a system of social stratification founded on ancestry and occupation. Unless you are born a Brahmin or other upper-caste Hindu, you are a slave in India. The term Brahmin, for all practical purposes, incorporates all the Hindu upper-castes of India. The Brahmins claim that they were the "chosen people of God." Brahmins believe that whatever exists belongs to the Brahmin.

Under BJP rule, a new term—Hindutva—came into use that bundled all the peoples of India (except those of foreign faiths—Christians, Muslims and Parsis) into the fold of Hinduism. A Cabinet member in the previous government led by BJP was open about it. He said that in India, either you must be a Hindu or you are subservient to Hinduism. Despite the fact that India's constitution bans the caste system, it remains the foundation of Hinduism and the Hindu supremacist system.

India's constitution ignores that India is many nations brought together only under foreign imperial rule and denies its peoples their right to self-determination as recognized under International Law.

The target of choice these days seems to be the Christians. Indian Christians have faced many hardships. Christians in India report that they or fellow believers have faced threats, physical attacks, and jail time for sharing their faith. Baptisms, in particular, became a significant challenge for local churches. Under the anti-conversion laws, anyone who chose to become baptized was legally obligated to seek permission from the government, as well as provide them with the name of the person performing the baptism. Fearing repercussions, many new Christians did not make this outward profession of faith until after the laws were repealed.

Human-rights organizations report that more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been killed by the Indian government. In addition, tens of thousands of Christians have been killed throughout the country. Priests have been killed, nuns have been raped and forced to drink their own urine, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked. No one is ever punished for these activities.

In 2002, the Associated Press reported an attack on a Catholic church on the outskirts